



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia State University
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. Weather conditions were drier this week; some limited tillage occurred on sandy soils and pastures continue to green up. Farming activities for the week included spreading manure and preparing fields for planting.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 03/31/19

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	-	3	82	15
Subsoil	-	1	71	28

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 03/31/19

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	-	-	25	75	-
Grapes	-	-	20	80	-
Peaches	-	1	21	78	-
Barley	-	9	40	51	-
Potatoes, Summer	-	-	24	76	-
Hay, Alfalfa	-	8	37	55	-
Hay, Other	-	5	41	54	-
Winter Wheat	-	8	35	53	4
Pasture	7	24	47	21	1
Livestock	3	6	39	46	6

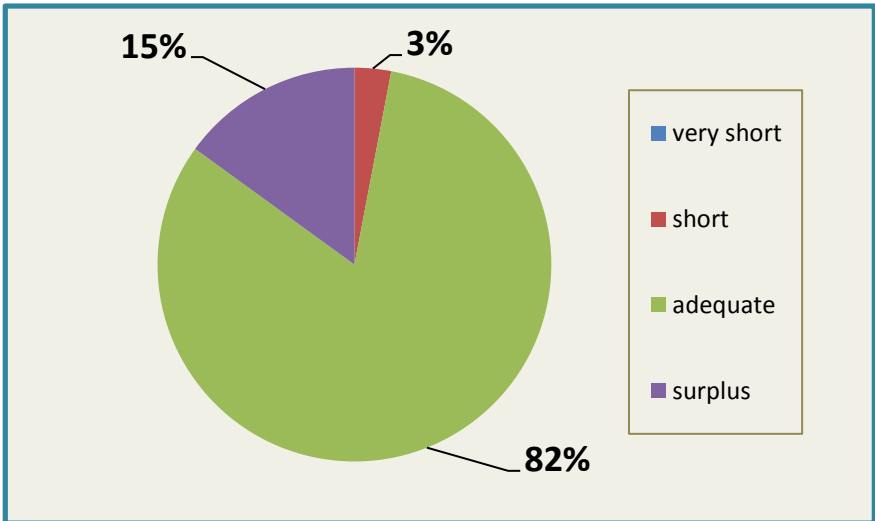
-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 03/31/19

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Potatoes, Summer planted	10	-	-	-

- Represents data not available.

Topsoil moisture for week ending 03/31/19



Weather Summary- For the week ending March 31, 2019

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Mar. 30	Mar. 1 to Mar. 30 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	66	34	77	25	50	1	128	136	0.05	3.53	-0.14	11.88	0.93
Norfolk	66	43	79	34	54	3	161	152	0.42	2.38	-1.52	10.88	-0.33
Richmond	67	38	77	28	52	2	153	166	0.29	3.86	-0.07	11.47	1.05
Roanoke	67	38	77	28	52	2	142	NA	0.09	1.81	-1.88	10.33	0.40
Wash/Dulles	63	34	77	24	48	2	102	NA	0.00	4.52	1.15	11.98	2.77

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

Warmer and drier week. Soil surface is actually getting dry and could use some rain. Pastures starting to green up. Manure is being spread.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)

A week of mostly clear and spring-like weather allowed spring manure applications to progress. Many farmers were busy this week grading and re-seeding pastures and feeding areas damaged by the very wet winter. Most farmers are still offering hay, but livestock are chasing the new green shoots as the pastures are rapidly greening up. There was a freeze Monday morning, April 1, with temperatures in the 20's in Rockbridge.

BATH/HIGHLAND (John Benner)

First significant week of drying in a long time.

EASTERN

CHARLES CITY (Scott Reiter)

Field activities for the week included fertilizer, lime, and herbicide applications. Some limited tillage occurred on sandy soils. Growers are preparing to plant corn; however, cold temperatures are keeping seed safely in the bag.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Long, wet fall and winter has made for delay in preparing fields. Wet fall made it hard for farmers to get wheat and cover crops in.

SOUTHEASTERN

GREENSVILLE (Sara Rutherford)

The amount of field work has increased this week with longer breaks between rain, offering farmers more opportunities to prepare for planting, and make necessary applications.

PRINCE GEORGE/SURRY/SUSSEX (Scott Reiter)

Field activities for the week included fertilizer, lime, and herbicide applications. Some limited tillage occurred on sandy soils. Growers are preparing to plant corn; however, cold temperatures are keeping seed safely in the bag.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

The first corn in the area went in the ground this week, a lot of it was no-till. Strawberries are pushing blooms heavy; frost protection in coming weeks will be paramount.